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MINNESOTA HOUSING HONORS PARTNERS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Leaders representing the entire housing continuum highlighted

(Saint Paul) Minnesota Housing honored key partners today at the agency's annual Partners in Affordable Housing Awards. Co-sponsored by the Family Housing Fund and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, these awards recognize the work of individuals who have made exceptional contributions along the entire continuum of affordable housing in Minnesota.

The awards featured a keynote from Michael Bodaken, President of the National Housing Trust, who spoke to the audience of housing leaders about the changing leadership in Washington and the opportunity this presents to advance the affordable housing field.

2009 Partners in Affordable Housing Awards Recipients:

Emerging Leadership Award for Single Family Development - Kathy Grell, LarMac LLC
Emerging Leadership Award for Multifamily Development - Jane Anderson, Northstar Residential
Home Buyer Partner Award - Eric Otterness, Lake Area Mortgage
Community Impact Award - Kim Quayson, MidCountry Mortgage
Best Practices Award for Single Family Partners - Teddy Bagley, Guaranteed Rate
Best Practices Award for Multifamily Partners - Rick Klun, Center City Housing Corporation
Leadership Award - Jim Frey, Frey Foundation
Foreclosure Response Award - Dan Williams, Lutheran Social Services
Foreclosure Response Award - Stephanie Gruver, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation
Comprehensive Housing Services Award - West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.
Exemplary Collaboration Award - Laura Simpson, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

2009 Partners in Affordable Housing Awards Recipient highlights:

Emerging Leadership Award for Single Family Development - Kathy Grell, LarMac LLC

As a developer, Kathy was one of the first in Minnesota to develop affordable modular ENERGY STAR homes. She has also been a leader in encouraging others to develop and build new and innovative ways to bring energy efficiency to affordable housing in greater Minnesota.

Emerging Leadership Award for Multifamily Development - Jane Anderson, Northstar Residential

Jane has been a leader in providing and assuring quality housing. Her company started in 2005, as a property management experiment with 7 properties and 300 units and has now doubled in size, and is a model for others.

Home Buyer Partner Award - Eric Otterness, Lake Area Mortgage

Eric is a Senior Mortgage Officer with Lake Area Bank in Shoreview with more than 30 years of experience in the real estate industry. He specializes in products for first time home buyers and is considered an expert on subsidized loan programs and down payment assistance in Minnesota. In addition, he promotes programs to assist communities with foreclosure remediation.

Community Impact Award - Kim Quayson, MidCountry Mortgage

Kim has 15 years of experience in housing. She is a member of the Pan African Community Council and has been an active participant in working with the Emerging Markets Homeownership Initiative. She was a key player in the Minnesota Housing New Markets pilot program, working to train and mentor African Development Center staff to become more skilled at originating loans.

Best Practices Award for Single Family Partners - Teddy Bagley, Guaranteed Rate

Under Teddy's leadership, Guaranteed Rate has become a top producing Minnesota Housing lender, with a 73% increase in their Emerging Market numbers since 2007.

Best Practices Award for Multifamily Partners - Rick Klun, Center City Housing Corporation

Rick's drive and candor were critical in gaining community acceptance for the San Marcos development in Duluth. This model has been acknowledged as a national best practice and was recently featured at the American Planning Association convention.

Leadership Award - Jim Frey, Frey Foundation

In 2006, Jim led the Frey Foundation to make a \$5 million gift to support Minnesota's Business Plan to End Long-Term Homelessness. This year he spearheaded a second \$5 million gift to continue the work of ending homelessness across the state. These gifts are providing much-needed support services, primarily to families in permanent supportive housing.

Foreclosure Response Award - Dan Williams, Lutheran Social Services

Dan is the Program Manager for the Foreclosure Prevention Assistance Program with Lutheran Social Services (LSS). He is a leader and expert in the area of foreclosure prevention throughout the state. In the last year, LSS provided counseling to more than 3,700 people, which accounts for 25% of the counseling provided by the entire network of 24 foreclosure prevention counseling organizations.

Foreclosure Response Award - Stephanie Gruver, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation

Stephanie is the Special Projects Coordinator for the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC). She facilitates GMHC's housing initiatives in North Minneapolis. With her help, GMHC is working to buy, redevelop and sell foreclosed homes and stabilize neighborhoods.

Comprehensive Housing Services Award - West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.

West Central is a non-profit located in Elbow Lake Minnesota, dedicated to reducing the effects of poverty and improving the quality of rural life in their five county service area. In addition to being an administrator for Minnesota Housing's Minnesota Rural and Urban Homesteading Program (MURL), Rehabilitation Loan Program, Foreclosure Prevention Assistance Program, Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program, and a recipient of Challenge funds, they also run their area's Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota, Energy Assistance Program, and Weatherization Assistance programs.

Exemplary Collaboration Award - Laura Simpson, HUD

Laura works closely with Minnesota Housing on underwriting and monitoring projects and has been an outstanding partner in the agency's work with HUD contract administration. She is a gifted and dedicated public servant and her efforts have helped earn the reputation of having the best HUD field office in the country.

Minnesota Housing is a state agency committed to finance and advance affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income Minnesotans to enhance quality of life and foster strong communities. The agency invests more than \$1.6 billion in affordable housing each biennium. If ranked among commercial banks, it would be the sixth largest bank, with total agency-wide assets of \$3.2 billion as of March 31, 2008.

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